

Attorney Docket No: 582 PUSA
Serial No.: 10/705,246

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

36. (Currently Amended) A pallet comprising:

a first component having a first upper surface, and a first lower surface including a first plurality of cross-rib members;

a second component having a second lower surface, and also having a second upper surface which includes a second plurality of cross-rib members corresponding to the first plurality of cross-rib members and mounted thereto, the first and second plurality of cross-rib members forming box beam sections;

a third component disposed adjacent the second component and having a third upper surface, and also having a third lower surface which includes a third plurality of cross-rib members;

a fourth component having a fourth upper surface including a fourth plurality of cross-rib members corresponding to the third plurality of cross-rib members and mounted thereto; and

a plurality of intermediate column members extending between the second lower surface and third upper surface for providing spacing therebetween.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Original) The pallet of claim 36, wherein the third and fourth plurality of cross-rib members form box beam sections.

39. (Original) The pallet of claim 36, wherein the intermediate column members have at least one end which are formed as a unitary construction with one of the second and third components.

40. (Original) The pallet of claim 36, wherein the plurality of intermediate column

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members comprise a first intermediate column portion and a second intermediate column portion which are attached to each other, wherein the first intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary construction with the second component and the second intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary construction with the third component.

41. (Original) The pallet of claim 40, wherein the first and second intermediate column portions have mating ribbed surfaces.

42. (Original) A pallet assembly, comprising:

- a first pallet component including a first plurality of cross-rib members;

- a second pallet component including a second plurality of cross-rib members corresponding to the first plurality of cross-rib members, the first and second plurality of cross-rib members attached to form a first plurality of box sections, the second pallet component further including a first opposed surface;

- a third pallet component disposed adjacent the second pallet component and having a second opposed surface opposite the first opposed surface of the second pallet component, the third pallet component further including a third plurality of cross-rib members; and

- a fourth pallet component including a fourth plurality of cross-rib members corresponding to the third plurality of cross-rib members, the third and fourth plurality of cross-rib members attached to form a second plurality of box beam sections; and

- at least one intermediate column extending between the first and second opposed surfaces for providing spacing therebetween.

43. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 42, wherein the at least one intermediate column has at least one end which is formed as a unitary construction with at least one of the second and third pallet components.

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44. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 42, wherein the at least one intermediate column comprises a first intermediate column portion and a second intermediate column portion which are attached to each other, wherein the first intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary construction with the second pallet component and the second intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary construction with the third pallet component.

45. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 44, wherein the first and second intermediate column portions have mating ribbed surfaces.

46. (Original) A pallet assembly, comprising:

- a first pallet component including a first plurality of cross-rib members;

- a second pallet component including a second plurality of cross-rib members corresponding to the first plurality of cross-rib members, the first and second plurality of cross-rib members attached to form a first plurality of box sections, the second pallet component further including a first opposed surface;

- a first intermediate column portion attached to the first opposed surface of the second pallet component;

- a third pallet component disposed adjacent the second pallet component and having a second opposed surface opposite the first opposed surface of the second pallet component, the third pallet component further including a third plurality of cross-rib members;

- a second intermediate column portion attached to the second opposed surface of the third pallet component; and

- a fourth pallet component including a fourth plurality of cross-rib members corresponding to the third plurality of cross-rib members, the third and fourth plurality of cross-rib members attached to form a second plurality of box beam sections,

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wherein the first intermediate column portion and a second intermediate column portion having mating surfaces which are attached to each other to form intermediate columns between the second and third pallet components.

47. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 46, wherein the first intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary construction with the second pallet component, and wherein the second intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary construction with the third pallet component.